



# The Ripline

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Issue 3 2001/2002

Newsletter of the BRISTOL UNIVERSITY HOT AIR BALLOONING SOCIETY  
in association with the U.W.E HOT AIR BALLOONING SOCIETY

Welcome to the Christmas Edition of The Ripline, newsletter of BUHABS and UWEHABS. You may have noticed some little changes to this issue, since Pete has handed the newsletter over to two first year aeronautical engineers! But we're OK really ..... Honestly! All suggestions, constructive criticism and contributions for future issues welcome, our e-mail addresses are below.

The general feeling is that we've had a successful start to the year, fairly good weather has meant many new members (including us) have flown for the first time. Flight reviews and pictures are very welcome. Vicky has also organised two very successful social events, several more are being planned for next term so check your e-mail and future issues of Ripline!

Included in this issue are some reviews of ballooning related sites on the internet, some news and photos of recent flights and even a chance to have a say in the design of the new BUHABS T-shirts!

Happy Flying, and a very Merry Christmas.

Ellie Fearon [REDACTED] and Hugo Williams [REDACTED]

## A Word from the Social Secretary.....

It was great to see many people at our last social, either bowling or at the pub, (and for some people both!) The queen of the pins was Nicola with an impressive score of 106, closely beating Simon Cox who ended up with 102. Our usual, the White Bear, was the venue for drinks afterwards and everyone was treated to photos of Lee's new hopper, again! In week 10, on Monday 10th December our xmas social is going to be a party at Lee's house, no more photos, please Lee! There will be a prize for the best dressed person, xmas theme, and plenty of mince pies and mulled wine to get us into the festive mood. Bring a friend and/or a bottle! We look forward to seeing you there!

Merry Christmas!  
Vicky

We're hoping for pictures from the xmas party for the next issue. Lee's address is 63 Church Road, Horfield, Bristol BS7. Directions will follow by e-mail. The first social of the new year will be a ballooning slideshow early next term. Dates hadn't been decided at the time of print, but Vicky will mail out details as soon as they're decided. -Eds



## Flying last weekend.

The only good weather for the whole of weekend meant we could go flying on Sunday 2nd December. Lee and Simon flew a full load from Bath to Keynsham, landing next to a football pitch (which is another story....). A couple of people had cameras with them and it was a wonderful cold winter morning so I'm sure there are some great pictures. If someone could scan them in and e-mail them to us then I'm sure everyone would love to see them.

The pictures below are of a flight from Ashton Court a few weeks ago.



### Websites Worth Seeing

#### <http://www.qinetiq1.com/>

An interesting website concerning an aero engineer and a man who's stunt ballooning company is responsible for the ever-so-daring balloon action in 'The Great Muppet Caper'. These two interesting characters are going to try and break the record to take a manned balloon to the highest altitude ever attempted (& believe me they will need to get very high!)

#### <http://www.philsballoons.f2s.com/>

A great site worth checking out, with some fabulous pictures of Lee, apparently! No honestly, there are some absolutely fantastic piccies of rather colourful and somewhat exotic balloons, plenty of info. on last years Bristol balloon fiesta and G-RAFE! Basically it's got all you need to satisfy that rained-out Saturday afternoon balloon craving.

By the way, if you haven't already been onto BUHABS own web site it's actually very good and you never know, if someone tells you they've seen your picture on the web they might actually mean it!! You can also find photos of past trips and general bits and bobs about committee types and the way the club works. But I know I'm only preaching to the converted, because I'm sure you're all very keen committed BUHABS web page surfers already! Web address is on the front page, or type in BUHABS into any search engine and as if by magic you'll find your way there.....

Ellie



## Balloon Related (slightly) News Story: *Party balloon flight breaks record*

BBC News Online; Sunday, 28 October, 2001.



A 46-year-old man from Herefordshire has flown into the record books by setting a new world record for a flight powered by party balloons.

Ian Ashpole, from Ross-on-Wye, reached a height of 11,000ft, while strapped to 600 balloons in a harness. He realised a childhood dream and beat the previous world record of 10,000ft, which he set himself in 1996, although he had hoped to reach 15,000ft.

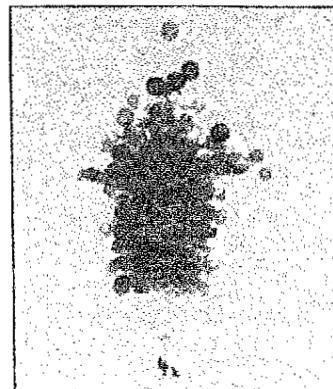
Once he ascended to the record height at the North London Parachute Centre, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, on Sunday, Mr Ashpole, cut himself adrift with a knife and parachuted back to earth.

Afterwards he said: "It's a childhood dream, I saw a film called The Red Balloon, in which a boy floats off on balloons, when I was a child and ever since I've wanted to do it."

He admitted to being mildly apprehensive before trying the stunt, which was quite eventful.

He said: "It got to a point where a lot of balloons were starting to burst - it was like machine guns going off - and I cut myself free without any problem."

His wife Louise Ashpole said: "I don't understand it. I have no idea why he wants to do it. It's obviously great fun for him. I don't think I could stop him doing it if I wanted to."

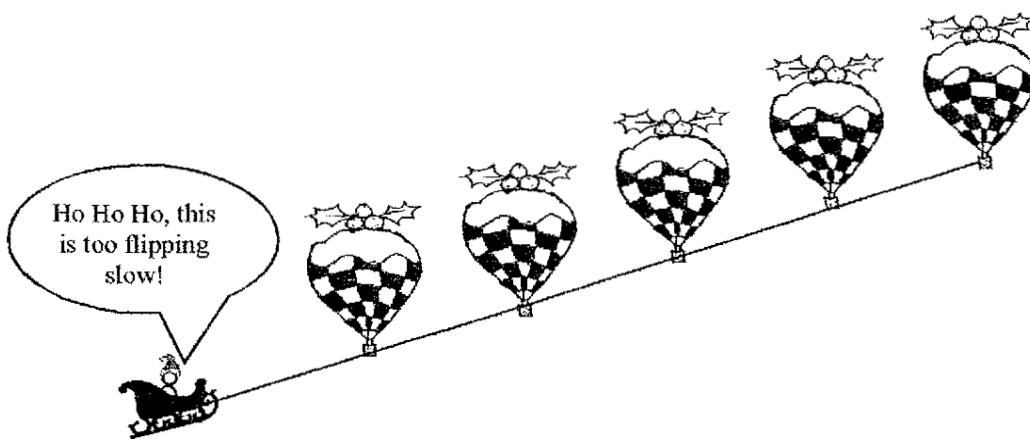


### BBAC Landowners Relations Course (March 2002)

Another chance to attend this worthwhile course. Suitable for those in the BBAC and new to ballooning although it is part of the PPL(b) syllabus. Provides insight into UK law, animal behaviour, arable farming and communication skills. Price £5.00 (BBAC members) and lunch is included. To register and pay the course fee or to find out more email Rick Hatton at [REDACTED] (info from the Camerons' website).

### Icicle Meet - January 5th and 6th

This is a flight involving about 100 balloons from a farm in Wiltshire, it is typically a whole day's outing and BUHABS hope to fly on both days. If you're interested or would like more info, give Simon a call on [REDACTED] Please note that it is during the Christmas vacation though.



### ***BUHABS T-Shirts***

There are only a few BUHABS T-shirts left, so anybody who would like one should contact Simon, or ask next time you're flying. They are £9 for short sleeved and £12 for long.

Which brings us conveniently to the new T-Shirt designs. We'd like to open the floor for those with artistic skills or razor sharp wit! The white heat of technology provides us with the T-shirt outlines below (OK, I know they look a bit naff but you get the idea....). A witty (but fairly clean\*) slogan would be a good idea, and some link with Bristol, like the silhouette on the current T-shirts, is always nice. Feel free to photocopy the page if you like and send to the address below. Please don't forget name and e-mail address. Its just like Blue Peter, although you won't get a badge. You might get your design on the T-shirts though!

\* Ellie says the ruder the better!

